



PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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MAY RED MEAT PRODUCTION

WEST VIRGINIA - Commercial red meat production during May 2006 totaled 300,000 pounds. This was up 13 percent from May 2005 and down 11 percent from April 2006 production. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

Commercial cattle slaughter totaled 443,000 pounds live weight, up 58,000 pounds from May 2005. Cattle slaughter totaled 400 head, unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight, at 1,110 pounds, was up 132 pounds from a year ago.

Commercial calf slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 103,000 pounds live weight, up slightly from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 400 head, unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight, at 240 pounds, was down 31 pounds from the previous year.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

UNITED STATES - Commercial red meat production totaled 4.05 billion pounds in May, up 9 percent from the 3.71 billion pounds produced in May 2005.

Beef production, at 2.30 billion pounds, was 11 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.04 million head, up 9 percent from May 2005. The average live weight was up 19 pounds from the previous year, at 1,241 pounds.

Veal production totaled 13.1 million pounds, 1 percent below May a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 57,000 head, down 3 percent from May 2005. The average live weight was 2 pounds above last year, at 378 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.72 billion pounds, up 7 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.54 million head, 6 percent above May 2005. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 271 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 16.3 million pounds, was up 10 percent from May 2005. Sheep slaughter totaled 225,800 head, 9 percent above last year. The average live weight was 144 pounds, up 1 pound from May a year ago.

January to May 2006 commercial red meat production was 19.1 billion pounds, up 5 percent from 2005. Accumulated beef production was up 7 percent from last year, veal was down 5 percent, pork was up 2 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 4 percent.

May 2005 contained 22 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

May 2006 contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

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